



## Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Approved Meeting Minutes: April 10, 2014

*Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.*

### **Administrative Business:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by the ELAC Chair, Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical). Meeting notes were taken by Kathryn Brungard (Eurofins Lancaster Labs Env) and Charles Anzolut (Agra Environmental) and written up as the Meeting Minutes by the ELAC Secretary, Dorothy Love (Eurofins Lancaster Labs Env). The March 2014 ELAC Meeting Minutes were approved, with a motion by Lauren Jenkins (IAL), with the motion seconded by Greg Tomkovich (Accutest Labs).

**Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ECLP):** A program update was provided by Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA).

Approximately three-fourths of the Certification renewals were received.

**Proficiency Test (PT) Program:** A program update was provided by Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA).

Letters regarding the Drinking Water PTs were sent out about 1 ½ weeks ago. All labs are instructed to read the letters closely to ensure complete understanding.

The deadline for the WP PTs is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

PT scheduling for NELAC labs – stay on the normal time frame (usually 5-7 months apart). Do not convert to the NJ time frame.

Questions on the PT Program may be emailed to Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA) at: [rachel.ellis@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:rachel.ellis@dep.state.nj.us)

**The NELAC Institute (TNI):** A program update was provided by Dr. Mike Miller (MW Miller Environmental) and Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA).

Discussions are continuing regarding the field program. More labs are being approved for this.

PT Volume 3 of the TNI Standards is posted for comment. All four volumes should be posted for comment prior to the summer TNI meeting.

The Standards Interpretation Request (SIR) process has been revised for faster TAT. The process is now designed to target 30 days for response to the requestor. The requests are sent directly to the committee who will handle the SIR with e-conferencing. SIRs are submitted through the TNI website.

Check the TNI website <http://www.nelac-institute.org/index.php> for more on this. The next TNI meeting will be the 1<sup>st</sup> week of August in Washington DC.

**Sludge / Biosolids:** No program updates were reported.

**Division of Water Supply/Safe Drinking Water:** Program updates were provided by Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW).

Harvey Klein (Garden State Labs) commented on the Revised Total Coliform Rules (RTCR) and NJ allowing early implementation. There will be no implementation of the reduced repeat sampling requirements for systems until NJ has been granted primacy for the RTCR by the EPA.

Linda Bonnette (BSDW) clarified that “primacy” documents how New Jersey plans to execute the rule. The primacy document must be submitted to and approved by the USEPA before the state can be considered the regulatory authority for the rule as it pertains to NJ public water systems. NJ is currently working on the primacy document which must be

submitted to the EPA by February 13, 2015. NJ public water systems must comply with the RTRC by the implementation date of April 1, 2016.

Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical) asked Linda to confirm that Primacy is granted on a rule-by-rule basis. Linda confirmed this.

Linda noted that Karen Fell issued a memo regarding PWS who are surface water systems or ground water under the influence of ground water systems (GWUDI) or purchase water from surface water systems or GWUDI or supplement their groundwater wells with SW or GWUDI, must complete Sections B and C of the Chlorine Residual (DR) Forms – BSDW-25 rev. 10/13. Harvey Klein (Garden State Labs) questioned whether Labs were responsible for completing and filing DR forms with the NJDEP. Charles Anzolut (Agra Environmental) confirmed that DR reports are the responsibility of the Licensed Operator and the system.

The BSDW Round table is tentatively scheduled for September at the Horizon Center in Robbinsville. This will be confirmed by Wednesday. Let Linda know if you are aware of any conferences that could conflict with the September plan.

**Site Remediation Program:** A program update was provided by Greg Toffoli (NJDEP-SRP).

The Technical Guidance document is complete and to the committee for final review. The release will be communicated through listserv. A 1-2 hour training course is tentatively planned for May 12 at 9:00 am in the DEP Public Hearing Room. This will also be available as a webinar. An all-day training is planned for June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Rutgers. This will be more detailed and include case studies. Any changes to the document are edits/clarifications based on the comments; there are no major changes. Check the SRP webpage <http://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/> for current information and notices. The guidance document includes many quick links to other information so it is recommended to use an e-version. Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical) asked if there will be a six-month follow-up to the Rutgers LSRP training and will the training be offered for the geologists and other site specialists. Greg said that the Committee would make a determination on this based on studies and case history data.

Greg posed a question to the labs regarding the NJ EPH method and the differences with fractionated and non-fractionated results for the Category 2 contaminants. Discussion then centered around what could be causing the differences, which is more accurate, and at what concentration fractionation is needed. Responses noted loss on the silica gel, absorbent issues, and more loss with lighter fuels. It was also noted that silica pulls the polar compounds such as alcohols, glycols, and phenolics out of the sample. The Aromatic range for the method goes to C36; this leaves potential for heavy losses in the C36-C40 range. Additional comments were made regarding the cost of the two methods. With fractionation, there is typically a prescreening analysis and then the fractionation. Regarding the concentration level needed for fractionation, most labs think that if the concentration is <1700 there is no need to fractionate\*. Harvey Klein (Garden State Labs) noted that the LSRPs need to make the decision regarding which analysis to use. Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical) asked if NJ DEP could develop a guidance document on the method selection criteria.

\*Background information not discussed at the meeting, but clarifies the topic:

The reason is as follows:

An explanation given at EPH FAQs #18b = [http://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/guidance/rs/eph\\_faq.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/guidance/rs/eph_faq.pdf) - DEP states that fractionating Category 2 samples below 1,700 mg/kg is NOT necessary, as this concentration is the calculated remedial goal when the worst-case toxicity factor is applied to the entire mass of contamination (i.e., this is the lowest possible calculated health-based value, it is not possible to have a health-based concentration lower than 1,700 mg/kg, having fractionation information will not alter this results, why spend the money on fractionation).

Greg reported on the progress with review of the NJ Remediation Standards and asked labs to submit information regarding reasonable reporting limits in soil for: n-Hexane; 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene; and tert-butylalcohol (TBA). Also, clients are asking for a 0.3 ug/l MDL for 1,3-butadiene in drinking water. Is this achievable? He also noted that the committee will review IRIS data as part of their evaluation. The full TCL/TAL lists should be the starting point for investigations. Then if you can demonstrate that it is not a problem at the site then compounds may be eliminated or the required reporting limits could be raised. There was additional discussion around the reporting method for 1,4-dioxane (VOC or SVOC). 8270 Isotope dilution is recommended but the SRP cannot dictate the method to use. Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical) said that they are seeing false positives in water from breakdown of soaps, etc. that are introduced in

the decontamination process. Greg suggested a pre-field remediation trip blank or dilution if the limits that are needed could still be attained.

Charles Anzolut (Agra Environmental) asked if anyone knew why Ocean County charges \$50 per report to verify Private Well Testing Act (PWTA) results. They do not ask for QC data. Harvey Klein (Garden State Labs) said that Ocean County has had their own standards since the 1980s and the county requires treatment for any issue in order to sell a home. Their rules are much stricter than NJ rules. On a related topic, Linda Bonette (BSDW) mentioned that childcare facility certification through the PWTA have a different reporting list. Contact Linda if you need that information.

Greg Toffoli (NJDEP-SRP) brought up the topic of rounding and significant figures to get a sense of how labs handle these and if significant figures can lead to remediation issues. The ensuing discussion showed that there is a lot of variability and potential issues with comparison to action levels. More direction may be necessary to clarify reportable figures vs significant figures. Additional questions and discussions took place regarding reporting results from diluted and undiluted samples.

**Subcommittees:**

**MUR Subcommittee:** Deb Waller (NJDEP OQA) was not present but will send information for the tables for section 3000 via email to the committee members for review and comment

**Electronic Data Deliverables Subcommittee:** An update for the SRP-EDD Subcommittee was provided by Henry Kindervatter, Roger Page, and Ken Liao (NJDEP-SRP-BIS).

Various topics were discussed. There was discussion regarding handling of results for diluted samples when multiple runs were submitted. Would it help to have a column to indicate if a result is reportable or not? Another issue centers around Excel EDDs when there are data changes by forcing into text mode, "1" in a compound name can also cause issues.

Another area of discussion was handling and identifying subcontractor data. See pdf attached to the meeting email for a question posed by the EDD team relative to subcontractor data. Labs are asked to provide feedback.

Questions and comments may be directed to Andy Geary (NJDEP-SRP-BIS) at: [andy.geary@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:andy.geary@dep.state.nj.us)

**Communications / OQA Website:**

ELAC Chair, Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical) reported that the NJDEP-OQA **website** is up to date. However, please note that there are no minutes for February since the meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. ELAC members and stakeholders are encouraged to sign up for both the NJDEP-OQA and NJDEP-SRP listserv options to receive email notifications from NJDEP.

**Meeting Schedule:** The Meeting was adjourned with a motion by Harvey Klein (Garden State Laboratories) and, seconded by Charles Anzolut (Agra Environmental). The next scheduled ELAC Meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 8, 2014 at 9:30AM**, at NJDEP, 401 East State Street, **5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room** in Trenton, New Jersey. Those planning to attend must email the ELAC Secretary, Dorothy Love at: [dorothylove@eurofinsUS.com](mailto:dorothylove@eurofinsUS.com) by Wednesday, April 30, 2014.

**Note:** *All visitors must show one form of photo identification, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at the NJDEP main lobby in the Trenton, New Jersey complex (401, 501, 440 and 428 E. State Street buildings). All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification. **Visitors must be escorted at all times by a NJDEP representative when in the building.***